

REMARKS

Applicants request favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 28, 33, 34, 38-41, 43, 44, 46, 48, and 51-55 are presented for consideration, with claims 28, 33, and 51 being independent. Claims 28, 33, 34, 51, 54, and 55 have been amended to clarify features of the subject invention. No new matter has been added by these changes.

The changes made by this Supplemental Amendment were prompted by Examiner Amari's telephone call to Applicants' representative on February 5, 2004, during which Examiner Amari indicated that if each occurrence of a "first object" was amended to read a "reticle," all of the claims would be allowable. In an earnest attempt to advance prosecution, the claims have been amended in this manner. Furthermore, each recitation of a "second object" has been amended to recite an "object to be exposed," and claim 28 has been amended to improve its form.

Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven E. Warner", is written over a horizontal line.

Attorney for Applicants
Steven E. Warner
Registration No. 33,326

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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